THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SIXTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

City of New Bedford

Massachusetts

FOR THE YEAR JULY 1, 1988 TO JUNE 30, 1989

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NEW BEDFORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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LIBRARY EMPLOYEES FISCAL 1989

DIRECTOR:	Rosemary Medeiros
LIBRARIAN III:	*Risa Goldberg, Vicki Lukas, Paula Wallace
LIBRRIAN II:	Joao Aguiar, Esther Cram, Paul Cyr, +Ann Feinstein, Martine Hargreaves, Sharon Pinho, William Schneller
LIBRARIAN I:	Yvette Boisclair, Pauline Bolduc, Dale Easton, Dolores Henry
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SUPERVISOR OF BUILDINGS and CUSTODIANS:	*Robert Bochman, Ronald Vigeant
PRE PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIANS:	Carol Bellefeuille, Maria Jose Carvalho, Theresa Coish, Mary Anne McGuire, Olivia Melo
LIBRARY ASSISTANT II:	Lilia Cabral, Joan Barney, Philip Dimor, Ernestina Furtado, Beverly Gracia, Nancy Matteos, Joan Nelson
LIBRARY ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR:	Maria Melo
BOOKKEEPER:	+Mary Freitas
LIBRARY ASSISTANT I:	Tammy Arruda, Rita Chapdelaine, Donna Cordeiro, Elizabeth Figueiredo, Shaune McCarthy, Patricia Mello, Eileen Michaud, Andrea Monteiro, Janice Pina, Maria Robertson, Dineia Sylvia, Pauline Sylvia, Ruth Vital, Janet Williams
LIBRARY ASSISTANT I/20 HRS:	Jeanette Harrison, Patricia Lapan, Alda Rego
LIBRARY AIDE II:	Kathleen Correia, Kelley Freitas, Maria L. Gil, Mary Jane Moraes, Nancy Seeley, Linda Velasquez

* resignation
\+ retirement

LIBRARY AIDE II 20 HRS:	Joyce Medeiros
SUBSTITUTES:	Pauline Bowcock, Carol Camaioni, Patricia Camaioni, Loraine Coelho, Elsie Desmarais, Deborah Diamond, Kathleen Doughty, Janice Fauteux, Karen Gravel, Donna Johansen, Yvonne LaCoste, Perscell McNeil, Jeanne Moquin-Falandys, Josette Ortega, Zelinda Pereira, Kelly Pimental, Valerie Pina, Margaret Riley, Susan Ramos, Diane Shaw, Brenda Shephard, Margaret Thomas, Irva Torres, Diane Travassos, Doreen Travassos, Mary Vidal, Johanna Walsh
SENIOR CUSTODIAN:	Barbara Caton
BOOKMOBILE DRIVER:	Michael Witkowicz
SUBSTITUE BOOKMOBILE DRIVERS:	Roger Boyer, Laurier LaCoste
VAN DRIVERS:	Joseph Bastarache, Frederick Elliot, Joseph Rose
BUILDING CUSTODIANS:	Jose Bretal, David Brisson, +Henry Silva, Joseph Taylor, *Emilio Tevenal
SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIANS:	George Arruda, Juliette Lawrence
MONITORS:	Manuel Lopes, Henrique Madeira, *Herbert Roderigues, *Nathanial Rosa, *Ricardo Silva, *Frank Tavares
PAGES:	*Kristina Barber, *Brenda Cardoza, Melanie Cardoza, *Carla Costa, *Robert Eldridge, Julia Francisco, *Melissa Gonsalves, Melanie Johnson, *Jacquelyn Massie, *Tammy Piche, *Michelle Ramos, Carla Ribeiro, Ana Roda, Mark Saunders, *Rui Sousa, *Christine Sullivan, *Sarah Thomas

* resignation
\+ retirement

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEW BEDFORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
JULY 1, 1988 - JUNE 30, 1989

INTRODUCTION

To the Honorable John K. Bullard, Mayor, members of the City Council and members of the Board of Library Trustees of the City of New Bedford, I respectfully submit the annual Report of the Free Public Library for July 1, 1988 through June 30, 1989.

The New Bedford Free Public Library system consists of the Main Library downtown, Wilks Branch in the north end, Buttonwood Community Library in the west end, Howland-Green Branch Library in the south end, the Casa da Saudade for the Portuguese-American community in the south central area, and the Bookmobile which visits schools, day-care centers, housing projects, shut-ins and city neighborhoods.

New Bedford continues to serve as the sub-regional headquarters for the libraries of Acushnet, Carver, Cuttyhunk, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Fall River, Freetown, Marion, Mattapoisett, Rochester, Somerset, Swansea, Wareham, and Westport. As the Sub-regional Headquarters, provided for by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners through the Eastern Massachusetts Regional Library System, the New Bedford Free Public Library has the responsibility of providing support services to these libraries.

The mission of the New Bedford Free Public Library continues to be a commitment to provide excellence in services and library materials to the citizens of New Bedford and to help them obtain information for their personal, educational, and professional needs; placing particular emphasis on youth and reference services and our function as a repository of local recorded history and art.

With the financial support of the Mayor and City Council we were able to develop services to the community in the areas of improved technology, collection development, programming, and genealogical services.

IMPROVED TECHNOLOGY

As part of the SouthEastern Automated Libraries consortium we continued the automation process of linking New Bedford with other member libraries in Southeastern Massachusetts.

Our Technical Services Department, under the direction of Vicki Lukas, was busy preparing for the transfer from manual to an automated system throughout the year. Terminals and telephone lines were installed at all New Bedford locations in July and August of 1988. The first data base load was completed by November.

Staff were trained for patron registration on the computer system in November and December and began converting to bar-coded patron library cards at all branches. During the months of January through June, 1989 each branch was closed for two weeks and the Main Library was closed for three weeks to bar-code materials. Work at all locations was well advanced by June 30th in linking the bar-code information to the records claimed by retrospective conversion in the S.E.A.L. data base.

For the Reference Department and its patrons, automation provided an easier way to locate titles owned by the library. This was done by searching the computer database at one of the two S.E.A.L. terminals in the Reference Room. In addition, the Reference Department began acquiring some commercial databases for use with the computer provided to us by the Eastern Region.

SUBREGIONAL SERVICES

The Interlibrary Loan Department was greatly assisted in its work by the introduction of several new technologies. Among these was a FAX machine, primarily used to receive documents housed at the Boston Public Library; a CD-ROM player used to access the Books in Print database; and an OCLC (On-line Computer Library Center) terminal which is used to identify, locate, and borrow materials. The OCLC database contains over twenty million titles contributed by several thousand libraries throughout the United States. The building of the SEAL database gave the I.L.L. Department the ability to locate thousands of titles which are available locally. All of these tools enabled them to obtain information more quickly and efficiently, with the immediate results showing a 47 % increase in the number of requests received by the department (8391) and 25% more materials (5169) being lent by the department to patrons.

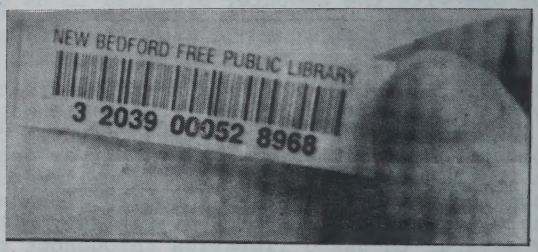
P5a

Staff photos by Mike Valeri

Computer age arrives

Above, Olivia Melo, left, pre-professional at the Wilks Library, and Rita Chapdelaine, branch assistant, code books at the library. The computer code bar, below, looks and works the same as the bar codes found on items in a supermarket.

City libraries surging into computer age



BAR-CODE

STAFF TRAINING AND CONFERENCES

Staff training was an important part of the changes that took place in the library this year as we worked to upgrade the quality of library services to the community:

-trained the entire staff for the bar-coding procedures
-trained the automation team for retrospective conversion
-revised the Reference Staff Training Manual
-developed new procedures for the Government Documents collection following the July 26, 1988 inspection visit by Joseph Paskoski from the Superintendent of Documents Office in Washington D.C.
-co-sponsored Government Document Workshops at Southeastern Massachusetts University
-offered workshops by the InterLibrary Loan Department to the Subregional librarians
-developed new procedures for the circulation department for new card registration
-trained reference staff on care and maintenance of the microfiche and microfilm machines
-trained staff on the updated WordPerfect 5.0 software
-trained the ILL staff on the Facsimile machine

Staff members attended educational seminars and conferences:

-CD-ROM workshops at NELINET attended by Reference staff members Risa Goldberg and Paula Wallace
-Interagency Depository Seminar on Government Documents in Washington attended by Reference staff members Risa Goldberg and Paula Wallace
-N.E.L.A. meetings attended by Risa Goldberg, Reference, and Donna Cordeiro of the Circulation Department
-American Library Association Convention attended by Risa Goldberg and Vicki Lukas, Technical Services
-Planning Process Conference in Framingham attended by Risa Goldberg, Reference
-preparation meetings for the 1990 Census attended by Dale Easton, Reference
-M.L.A. Public Relations seminar attended by Joan Nelson, Programming/Public Relations Coordinator
-Northeast Document Conservation Conference attended by Paul Cyr and Ernestina Furtado of Special Collections
-Rare Books School attended by Paul Cyr, Curator

The Pre-professional program continued to grow with the addition of Maria Jose Carvalho, Theresa Coish, Olivia Melo and Mary Anne McGuire to the program. Pre-professional Librarians were assigned throughout the library system to share their experience and education and gain "hands on" applications to their studies.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

Evaluation of the serials collection was made in the Reference Department, with major changes to organization and ordering procedures. A shelf list and improved check-in procedures were developed for the Government Documents Collection, making it possible to put in claims for missing documents and better maintain the integrity of that collection. The collection of computer-related materials was updated to make it more current in this field of rapid technological advances. The Reference Department continued to index the Vertical Files on current information. Reference collections at branches were evaluated and expanded by Risa Goldberg, Coordinator of Reference Services.

The Special Collections staff completed an index to the manuscript collection of whaling and non-whaling items, indexed the obituaries in the Standard-Times for 1985,1986,1988, and through June of 1989, and continued to work on the index of the New Bedford marriage records is also in process. The 1860 Census index is well underway. There were many valuable documents added to the collection for research in whaling, local history, and genealogical research.

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

In addition to offering library services to all levels of our divergent community, we participated in research leading to the publication of a Portuguese Language Libraries Collections brochure. The brochure was printed at Southeastern Massachusetts University as part of the work of the Commissao Coordenadora consisting of eight participating institutions. We were represented by Joao F. Aguiar, Branch Manager of the Casa da Saudade Library, and Paul Cyr, Curator of the Special Collections Department at the Main Library.

A Preservation Survey was conducted by Karen Motylewski of the Northeast Document Conservation Center at the Main Library.

GRANTS AND GIFTS

The New Bedford Free Public Library was awarded a Library Improvement Grant of $913,000, administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, for the purpose of making the library more accessible to all library users. Plans include opening the closed stack area, providing access for the handicapped, providing meeting and exhibit space and quiet study areas, and improving protection of the library and its collections from fire, theft and environmental deterioration.

GRANTS AND GIFTS (cont.)

These funds were awarded though a competitive grant process in which New Bedford's request was part of $127 million in funds being sought from an available total of $35 million. Rosemary Medeiros, Library Director, was assisted by library staff and Peter Jacobsen, Office of Housing and Neighborhood Development, in the preparation of the grant application.

The Massachusetts Arts Lottery awarded the library two grants through the New Bedford Arts Council, one for $5,000 for the restoration of library art and one for $3,750 to have 70 pieces of art professionally photographed.

A Library Services and Construction Act Grant (L.S.C.A.), as administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, was awarded to the New Bedford Free Public Library for "Project Discovery." This was a program for teens of Portuguese-American families held at the Casa da Saudade Branch.

The library received several sets of the library Video Classics Collection through the John D. & Catherine MacArthur Video Collection Grant.

The Special Collections Department continued to be the recipient of gifts of appreciation from its patrons, including a donation of $1,000 from the Descendants of Whaling Masters, to be used for the restoration of the portrait of William Rotch, Sr., by Cornelius T. Hinckley; the Crapo Foundation donation of a portrait of William Wallace Crapo from the former Swain School Gallery; the Irish family donation of a portrait of Lieutenant Alfred S. Milliken by George O. Irish; the Robert K. Whitten donation of a needlepoint picture of "Ossian Playing the Harp" by Anna Whiting from the estate of his late wife Natalie Whiting Hunt Whitten.

The Friends of the New Bedford Free Public Library gave a SAVIN #7350 photocopy machine to the library for the Public Relations Department for production of newsletters, posters, fliers, and press releases for all library activities and services.

Sharon Pinho, Head of Buttonwood Community Library, received a grant for an Adult Reading & Discussion Series funded by the New England Foundation for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and New England Telephone.

PERSONNEL

Employees recognized in early 1989 for service to the city of New Bedford were Janet Williams, 20 years; Beverly Gracia, 20 years; Henry Silva, 15 years; Elizabeth Figueiredo, 5 years; Pauline Sylvia, 5 years.

Resignations, retirements and changes in the library personnel were seen throughout the system. Susan Anderson resigned in September as Coordinator of Children's Services to develop her storytelling talents, but returned to our employment as Coordinator of the temporary Bar-coding Team. Other members of the team were Patricia Camioni, Kathy Doughty, Karen Gravel, Jeanne Moquin-Falandys, Josette Ortega, Valerie Pina, Ellen Pittman, Margaret Thomas, Irva Torres, and Diane Travassos.

Theresa Coish was appointed Acting Coordinator of Children's Services for the remainder of the year.

Risa Goldberg, who started the Lunch Time Concert Series and the staff Soup Group at the Main Library, left to relocate to California and was replaced by Paula Wallace as Coordinator of Reference Services.

Esther Cram was hired as Branch Manager for Wilks Library in September 1988 and Carol Bellefeuille transferred to the position of Head of Bookmobile.

Mary Freitas, Bookkeeper, retired and was replaced by Ruth Vital, formerly of Buttonwood. Head of Circulation Ann Feinstein retired, and Mary Anne McGuire was appointed Acting Head of Circulation.

Robert Bochman was replaced by Ronald Vigeant as Superintendent of Buildings in December, 1988. Ron immediately began a thorough cleaning of all buildings and upgraded the procedures and training of custodial staff. He ordered large signs identifying each branch and its hours and placed them in front of Buttonwood, Casa, Howland-Green and Wilks in February.

Henry Silva, Geraldine Cullen, Margaret Riley, George Arruda, Herbert Rodriques, Perscell McNeil, Bryna Patrick, and Janice Fauteux all retired or left our employ this year.

A reclassifications process was completed and approved by the City Council. An Employee Assistance Program was added to the benefits available to all city employees.

Library Director Rosemary Medeiros was appointed to the Statewide Advisory Council on Libraries - M.B.L.C.

FINANCE

Investment of Wilks Fund in stocks.
March 1989 we did advance planning for the FY 90 budget.

FY'90 budget was submitted representing what had been established on the long range projections for the library system.

FY'89 was the peak year for the premium of library service/ automation conversion initiating costs.

PROPERTIES

The generator on the Bookmobile was replaced.

Roof work and air conditioning repairs were done at Buttonwood.

Efforts were made to discourage drug activity in and around Howland-Green by increased surveillance both by a library monitor and by the city police.

Staff worked together with architects and planners for preparation of the B.L.C. grant applications submitted on January 4, 1989 for restoration and reconstruction of the Main Library building.

In September, efforts were made to deal with the condition of the Casa da Saudade building. The questions of responsibility for security and financial contributions from other organizations using the facility were examined. An application was submitted by the Office of Housing and Neighborhood Development for the Massachusetts Historical Commission to place this building on the National Registry of Historical Places.

TRUST FUND ACCOUNTS
(JULY 1, 1988-JUNE 30, 1989)

FUND	ON HAND 6/30/89	RECEIVED	EXPENDED	BALANCE 6/30/89
Frederick S. Allen	$ 27.41	$ 81.30	$ 63.50	45.21
Casa da Saudade	10.89	.00	.00	10.89
James B. Congdon	26.86	40.66	35.66	31.86
George Crocker	37.30	633.99	359.31	311.98
Oliver Crocker	25.47	81.30	53.47	53.30
George Howland	267.11	124.79	.00	391.90
Sylvia Ann Howland	520.72	11,612.56	11,238.65	894.63
Sarah Jones	28.53	884.53	852.10	60.96
Kempton /Sarah Potter	1,004.85	34,504.46	34,077.84	1,431.47
Elizabeth Mackie	18.70	81.30	41.32	58.68
Charles W. Morgan	41.50	81.30	115.91	6.89
Bernard A. Perry	24.18	83.01	.00	107.19
Clara Tripp	386.90	1,655.14	1,756.94	285.10
Florence Waite	163.32	1,135.38	973.31	325.39
Wilks	1,210.56	56,569.49	55,650.13	2,129.92
Patty Wilcox	537.05	396.97	390.13	543.89
Charles Wood	33.03	156.43	78.49	110.97
TOTALS	**$4,364.38**	**$108,122.61**	**$105,686.76**	**$6,800.23**

RECEIPTS FY'89

Municipal Appropriation		$1,360,237.00
Library Incentive Grant		48,225.00
Municipal Equalization Grant		113,260.02
Trust Funds		
Balance FY'88	$ 4,364.38	
Income	108,122.61	
		112,486.99
Total		$1,634,209.01
Eastern Massachusetts Regional Library Program$		$148,240.00
GRAND TOTAL		$1,782,449.01

EXPENSES FY'89

100 Account Salaries and Wages		$1,096,458.00
200 Account Charges and Services		190,223.24
400 Account Supplies and Materials		249,517.01
Balance on Hand FY'89		
Library Incentive Grant	$ 21,297.27	
Municipal Equalization Grant	66,113.26	
Trust Funds	6,800.23	
800 Account Capital Outlay	3,800.00	
		98,010.76
Total		$1,634,209.01

Eastern Massachusetts Regional Library Program

100 Account Salaries and Wages	93,811.28
200 Account Charges and Services	2,105.67
400 Account Supplies and Materials	52,323.05
Total	$ 148,240.00
GRAND TOTAL	$1,782,449.01

PROGRAMS

This year we continued to create programming that would serve the needs of our diverse patronage. From the continuation of our Books for Babies program to the Adult Films so popular with our Seniors, we offered many types of events to suit various ages and interests. Library programs often serve as the first experience for many library users, opening the gateway to years of reading and learning. 1989 was declared the "Year of the Young Reader" by the Library of Congress and we used their theme "Give us Books, Give us Wings" throughout the year to stimulate interest in the potentials of lifelong reading and learning.

The first Program Planning Meeting during the summer of 1988 bore fruit throughout this very busy year. Programming was changed to minimize staff preparation time. Craft Programs were changed to Story-Craft Programs, with the emphasis on reading aloud to children. The Guest Reader Program was introduced with the help of the Friends of the New Bedford Free Public Library and has been continued at all branches, creating new community contacts community and introducing volunteer readers into the system.

To aid in the communication process we created a newsletter, "Library Logo," which was circulated to over 1400 patrons along with the Children's "Library Line-up" during the months of September through May. It brought information about new fines, library card registration, bar-coding and automation procedures and a calendar listing of programs at all of branches.

Fine Free month was held in June and helped us retrieve outstanding materials before the bar-coding process began.

The new Museum Pass Program allowed patrons to borrow a pass to the Fine Arts, Science, or Children's Museum in Boston, and the Whaling Museum locally, adding a new dimension to our efforts to increase cultural literacy throughout the community.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

First Night Activities were expanded to include the third floor, giving three locations for the two puppeteers, four storytellers, and two mimes who performed to overflow crowds all evening.

Our third annual Summer Concert Series on the steps of the Main Library was co-sponsored by the Office of Community Development and the Musician's Union, Local 214, with growing appreciation throughout the city.

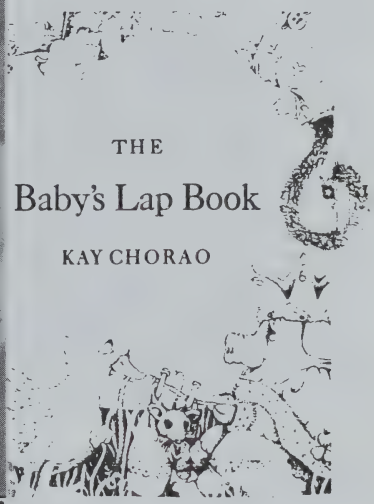
We added Family Film Fares during the school holidays to our family programming.

Library to provide books to parents of newborns

Staff photo by Ron Rosa

Starting young

Seven-month-old Nathan Souza's attention is on New Bedford Mayor John K. Bullard, who gives him and mom Alda Souza a book of nursery rhymes. The book is part of a city, library and private sector effort to promote literacy and a joy of reading.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

The introduction of the first annual Book Jacket Design contest was very successful at all branches, bringing new contacts with classroom teachers who encouraged their students to participate. Their wonderful designs were displayed during National Children's Book Week in November and an Awards Ceremony was held at each branch. Judging was done by Southeastern Massachusetts University Department of Art Education students.

With the change in Children's Services Directors came new ideas and programs. Ms. Theresa Coish, Acting Coordinator of Children's Services, developed the Gateway City Bags using realia and books on different themes. The bags were sewn by students at the Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School and designed by Andrea Monteiro, Library Assistant in the Children's Department. Ms. Coish also arranged for several of our branches to host Guest Readers from Channel 12 in Providence as part of their "Read-a-Kid-a-Book" program. The traditional Story Hours were continued on a more limited schedule at most branches to accommodate the time being spent on the automation conversion. Our annual visit from the Santa for the Hearing Impaired, Brenda Cardoza, was held at Buttonwood with a special class attending the Santa's signed story hour.

Our highlight of the year was the Summer Reading Program, "Awesome Adventures," designed to take children around the world through books, stories, games, displays, and internationally costumed guests sharing about their country's heritage. It was greeted with enthusiasm by the local teachers who prepared children for a special geography series of their own and were delighted to encourage their students to continue learning about the world at the library. Parents and students were most enthusiastic about the programs and reading activities.

TEENS

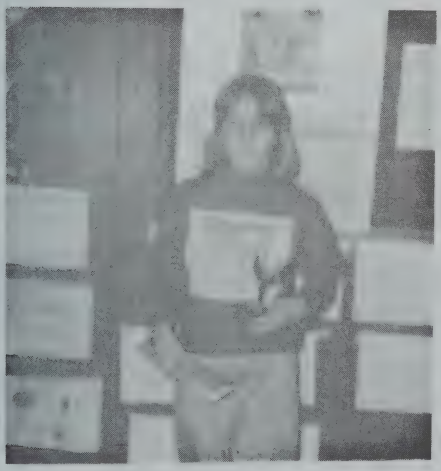
Though the funding cycle of Teen Scene, an L.S.C.A. youth project conducted in 1987, is over, the magazines and materials it purchased continue as a focus of teen interest. Unfortunately, the video machines purchased with this grant were stolen this Christmas, but we continue to create programs for this age group.

Our Guest Author, Rona Zable, presented her new book written for teens at the Howland-Green Branch and encouraged young people to write and dream of being an author.

Career Panels, Displays, and Videos at Wilks, Casa and at the spring Career Fair at New Bedford High School encouraged teens to dream, study and plan for their future.

New Bedford Library news

PROJECT DISCOVERY: The Summer Youth Festival



Book Jacket Design CONTEST

TEENS (cont.)

Paul Pinto was hired as coordinator of "Project Discovery," a summer teen program at Casa da Saudade. This program ended with a screening of the video they made to explain the importance of a bi-lingual library to children of Portuguese/American families. All of their programs were enthusiastic and creative and the group had a wonderful time at the library.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Our senior patrons came out faithfully for the Adult Film Program and Lectures.

This year the Friends of the New Bedford Free Public Library featured several authors and scholars, and a special staged reading of works by American authors, "Audible Images," with Deborah Brown and Walter Matherly. The annual meeting was a festive occasion as Risa Goldberg and her Cajun band "Magnolia" stirred everyone to dance as well as listen.

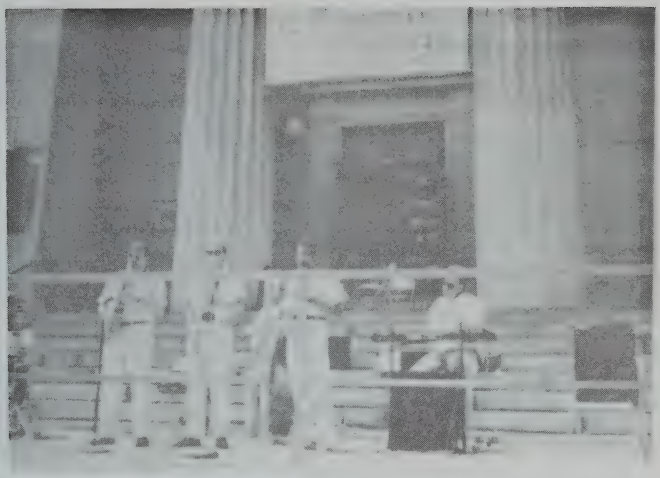
The Main Library often serves as the review stand site for the Memorial Day and Veteran's Day Parades. This year a local Vietnam Veteran, Lewis Hammond Stone, held a Memorial Poetry Reading in front of the veteran's bell. A cold and windy day suited his stirring works of poetic recall. The audience was filled with veterans and mothers of men lost in war and was a moving and very personal occasion.

The first Genealogy Workshop was introduced, with excellent attendance on all three nights and at the Saturday session. This much appreciated workshop was asked about throughout the remainder of the year, and many new patrons began tracing their family history.

The friends of Casa continued their excellent programming with a series of lectures by Guest Authors and an art exhibit.

The annual Adult Reading and Discussion Series keyed into the Bi-centennial theme as Sharon Pinho, Buttonwood Branch Manager, offered her patrons a series on our early forefathers in "Creators Great and Small: Biographies of the Constitution."

Lectures to other organizations were given by several of our staff members upon request, and assistance was given from the Special Collections department to several outside exhibits and two school systems in the development of curriculum on local Black History.



Events for June

14
FLAG DAY

FREE MOVIE
"Star Wars" starring Mark Hammill and Carrie Fisher. Howland-Green Library, 2 p.m.

21
FREE MOVIE
"The Sound of Music" starring Julie Andrews. Howland-Green Library, 2 p.m.

27
FREE MOVIE
"Bittersweet" starring Nelson Eddy and Jeanette MacDonald Howland-Green Library, 2 p.m. (No films at downtown library during June due to computer automation processing.)

28
FREE MOVIE
"The Black Stallion Returns" Story about an Arabian horse and young boy. Howland-Green Library, 2 p.m.

SENIORS ENJOY FILMS AND SUMMER CONCERTS

ADULT PROGRAMS (cont.)

Patricia Turner, Professor of Black History at University of Massachusetts-Boston, and Eleanor Wachs, Curator of the Commonwealth Museum at the State Archives, gave a workshop on Black Family Folklore in February and March to build awareness of their current exhibit, "Creating Community: the African Experience in Massachusetts," which features New Bedford Black and Cape Verdean history. Carl Cruz, Library Trustee, and Paul Cyr, Curator, were both honored by the Secretary of State's office and the General Court for their contribution to this exhibit. The exhibit features two major sections on the Black and Cape Verdean history of New Bedford from the eighteenth century and our Public Relations Department has arranged for it to be housed here in 1990.

EXHIBITS

We were privileged to have special exhibits on the third floor by both local and international artists this year. Gail Rosensweig's winning photography on the Bi-centennial of the Signing of the constitution, "We the People," was our first major exhibit. It was followed by the "Pastel Florals" art of Lewis Hammond Stone, the Pairpoint Glass Cup Plate Association exhibit, the "Father Damien" exhibit by the Sacred Heart Order, and the Freedom of Press Exhibit by curator Paul Cry for Banned Books Week with items from the William L. Sayer Collection.

Our second floor exhibit case and Casa da Saudade, Howland-Green, Wilks and Buttonwood, all served as display centers for library and community organizations displays. We were fortunate to have the annual displays of the Friends of Poland, the Day of Portugal Committee, the New England Book Show, and a display by the Zeiterion in honor of National Theatre Week.

Our art collection and exhibit services to many ethnic and cultural groups is a contribution that also links us to other famous institutions in New Bedford such as the Glass Museum, the Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum, and the Whaling Museum. Our shared heritage is a cultural asset to be guarded and enhanced. Contacts with cultural groups throughout the community were expanded by our participation in meetings of the Cultural Arts Coalition. The goal is to create an organization capable of soliciting grants and funds for all cultural groups as advised in the 1986 Cultural Needs Assessment Study made with a grant from the Massachusetts State Council for the Arts.

Saturday, April 8, 1989
The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA

VISIT OUR Exhibits

Staff photo by Mike Valen

On exhibit

Some 68 photographs are part of a display, sponsored by the Sacred Hearts Community, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the death of the Rev. Damien de Veuster, the leper priest killed in Hawaii. The display is on view at the downtown Free Public Library until April 15 then moves to the Buttonwood Community Library for the rest of month. Sacred Hearts Community also will present a one-man play, "Damien," at the Zeiterion at 3 p.m. April 16.

CIRCULATION STATISTICS

FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON TO 1970

LOCATION	1970	84-85	85-86	86-87	87-88	88-89
MAIN LIBRARY	125,542	160,045	153,369	136,192	126,237	120,006*
BOOKMOBILE	45,573	33,079	33,470	41,008	35,939	42,572*
BUTTONWOOD BRANCH	67,670	42,977	51,371	58,570	64,615	70,669*
CASA DA SAUDADE	---	45,747	47,473	45,166	40,008	40,252*
HOWLAND-GREEN BRANCH	49,849	34,895	28,516	34,196	37,271	37,203*
WILKS BRANCH	76,673	62,142	61,834	66,871	70,343	65,095*
All Branches	239,765	218,840	222,664	245,811	248,176	255,791
Entire System	365,307	378,885	376,033	382,003	374,413	375,797

* CLOSED FOR AUTOMATION PROJECT:

MAIN	5/15/89 to 6/2/89
BOOKMOBILE	4/17/89 to 4/28/89
BUTTONWOOD	1/11/89 to 1/25/89
CASA	3/6/89 to 3/18/89
HOWLAND-GREEN	3/27/89 to 4/8/89
WILKS	2/6/89 to 2/18/89

REFERENCE STATISTICS

LOCATION	1970	84-85	85-86	86-87	87-88	88-89
REFERENCE (questions answered by staff)	9,406	14,285	13,364	12,437	12,982	14,648*
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS (patrons assisted)			---	---	5,584	4,770*

ANNUAL REPORT

New Free Public Library, submitting Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1989.

IN CITY COUNCIL, May 24, 1990

Received and ordered printed in City Documents.

Janice A. Davidian, City Clerk

a true copy, attest:

City Clerk